

is not Presbyterian but largely patronized by them an expression of profound regret that our Confession of Faith had been rendered accessible to the Chinese, because it had already sufficiently disturbed and distracted the religious world. Are there not many who secretly and very heartily sympathize with such absurd and ignorant notions, and even with open attacks and reproaches so freely directed of late against our standards? They have not read them, they have no time or patience to do so; but they know that they are bad and deserve to perish. Others again are greatly in love with the thought of being Bible students. They have quite outgrown the wisdom of the Westminster divines. They are sure that it is infinitely better to go direct to the fountain-head than to streams polluted by human touch. Our principles, they say, are all in the word of God, and we ignore and despise mere human invention—we are free to determine our own beliefs—we are bent upon progress and refuse to be ruled and fettered by any book made by a set of ecclesiastics two centuries ago.

Precisely so, we answer. Down with mere ecclesiasticism. Perish every dogma and every book which controverts the Book of God. Let the Bible be supreme and let us search it through and through. But do the persons thus carried away with the grand thought of original Biblical investigation attend to it? They strongly assert their independence of all helps and of all antiquity and freely denounce formulated creeds; but after that what do they produce? If they determine their own principles with sufficient accuracy to deserve to be recorded what are they doing but preparing another man-made book perhaps far inferior to those they discard. At any rate, my observation is to the effect that those who on the score of liberty and progress keep them-